

SCOTT WALKER
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

P.O. Box 7863
MADISON, WI 53707

October 1, 2012

Dr. Susan Hedman
Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA Region 5
Ralph Metcalfe Federal Building
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Dr. Hedman:

I am writing in regard to the operation of the S.S. Badger, a carferry that travels between Manitowoc, Wisconsin and Ludington, Michigan.

The S.S. Badger is highly valued by the people of Manitowoc because of the economic boost travelers of the ferry provide the area, as well as the ferry's historical and cultural significance.

As you know, the individual permit for Lake Michigan Carferry, Inc. (LMC) to operate the ferry expires at the end of this year and they have applied for a new permit. To date, my office has received communication from approximately 3,000 residents of Manitowoc, elected officials, and other supporters – all who have expressed support for the S.S. Badger's permit to be renewed.

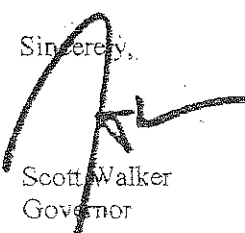
My Administration fully understands, respects and appreciates the balance you need to find in protecting our beautiful Lake Michigan and helping our economy. We hope the S.S. Badger can continue to sail, but we also hope they can do so in a manner that safeguards the waters of Lake Michigan.

In support of this goal, earlier this year, Wisconsin, through our State Energy Office, awarded the S.S. Badger a grant to help accelerate the conversion process away from coal. In light of this, I ask that you temporarily extend their permit to provide for a period of time to find a resolution that keeps the ferry sailing and Lake Michigan better protected.

Finally, this lingering and unanswered issue has caused great uncertainty in the Manitowoc region: the company would like to continue planning for its future ferry travels and the local community wants to know what they can expect from future tourism seasons. Given the need for greater certainty, I would also ask that you please make a decision as quickly as possible in regard to the LMC permit.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance or provide any additional information.

Sincerely,


Scott Walker
Governor